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*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
March 11, 2013

TO: The Honorable Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee
Senator Eric D. Coleman
Representative Gerald M. Fox and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **RAISED BILLS NO. 6581**-AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY A CHILD OR YOUTH; **RAISED BILL NO. 1062**-AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING THE SENTENCING OF A CHILD CONVICTED OF A FELONY OFFENSE; **RAISED BILL NO. 6582**-CT SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTIFICATES OF REHABILITATION; **RAISED BILL NO. 985**-CT SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM STATE CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER COURSES TO INMATES AT NO COSTS.

My name is Attorney Beth A. Hogan and I am here today to testify on four bills; Raised Bill No. 6581; Raised Bill No. 1062; Raised Bill No. 6582 and Raised Bill No. 985.

RE: **RAISED BILL NO. 6581**

I support the Connecticut Sentencing Commission recommendations concerning the lengthy sentences served by children and youth who had committed a crime while under the age of eighteen years and were convicted by trial or by guilty plea of the criminal offense. This reasonable rational and equitable legislation aligns with the criteria set forth of a "meaningful review" as outlined by the United States Supreme Court in Graham. The Sentencing Commission has worked diligently towards this legislative goal during the last few years. Last year, the Sentencing Committee wanted more time to work on this recommendation and to reach consensus by its diverse membership. It appears that this has happened based on my attendance at Sentencing Commissions Public Hearing in November 2012. This legislation provides the guidelines that the Board of Pardons and Parole will use in its procedural process in conducting its hearing as outlined in Section 1(f)(3) and the factors that the Board of Pardons and Parole

Will consider as part of its decision making process. This legislation provides recognition of all the changes in brain science and the juvenile brain as discussed in the Graham and Miller Decisions and with this legislation now every juvenile will have a "second look" based on age, continued brain development, maturity, the potential for significant rehabilitative achievement that may permit the release of a juvenile to the supervision of the board of Pardons and Parole and that the positive benefits to such individual and society substantially outweighs continued incarceration of that individual.

RE: RAISED BILL NO. 1062

I support the Connecticut Sentencing Commission recommendations concerning the criteria for mitigating factors that shall be considered by the Judge during the sentencing phase of a child convicted of a felony offense including the entire factors outline in numbers 1-12 in the bill as required by the United States Supreme Court's Decision in Miller. The requirement that reference materials in adolescent psychological and brain development research be available to assist courts. Finally, the Raised Bill will allow separate hearings to consider the migration facts to all cases that did not consider such factors in accordance with Miller and who were under the age of 18 at the time of sentencing.

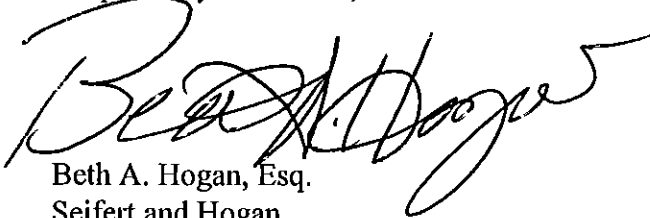
RE: RAISED BILL NO. 6582

I support the objective of the Certificate of Rehabilitation to individuals with prior convictions which may hopefully remove barriers to employment.

RE: RAISED BILL NO. 985

I support the exemption from State contracting requirements for institutions' of higher education that offer courses to inmates at no cost. The State contracting requirements should not apply to these educational institutions and programs that continue to provide the most thoughtful, engaging, productive educational stimulation and opportunity to incarcerated individuals. This is a welcomed opportunity for educational institutions that want to provide this service to inmates for free but have been hampered and discouraged by the state contracting requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth A. Hogan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Beth A. Hogan, Esq.
Seifert and Hogan
Attorneys at Law